



## **Community Appearance Commission**

### **Minutes**

**May 2, 2007**

The regular meeting of the Salisbury Community Appearance Commission was called to order Wednesday, May 2, 2007, at 4 p.m. by Barbara Perry, Chair, in the Council Chamber, 217 South Main Street, Salisbury, North Carolina. The following members were present and absent:

Present: Greta Connor, Suzette Davis, Diane Gibbs, Barbara Lawther, Barbara Perry, Sara Robinson, Johnny Safrit, Bill Safrit, and Tom Wolpert

Absent: Cindee Bridges (resigned) and Chad Morgan

Staff: Lynn Raker and Diana Moghrabi

Barbara Perry, Chair, called the meeting to order. The minutes of the April 4 meeting were approved as submitted. The Financial Report was accepted as submitted.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Neighborhoods & Education Committee**

Greta Connor reported that she, Lynn Raker, and Barbara Perry met with Councilman Mark Lewis. He acknowledged that, in their retreat, the City Council did not address the CAC presentation about the deteriorated housing concern. City Council sets goals and objectives during their annual retreat. He did not know why this issue did not appear on the Council Retreat agenda. This needs to be a part of the Council Goals next year. He recommended lobbying the City Council—make phone calls. The CAC needs to make a list for City Council that determines priorities and which steps can be taken to improve dilapidated housing with little or no money. Small, successful strides can be made like creating Certificate of Occupancy requirements for rental property. Mr. Lewis also suggested breaking the report down and following up with him and City Manager, David Treme.

City Council recognizes that code enforcement needs additional support due to recent annexations. The Fire Department has taken some advice from the subcommittee as reported at the **Neighborhood Leaders Alliance** meeting Thursday, March 29, 2007.

Someone needs to champion the cause; establishing a Housing Commission to do so may be the best thing for this committee to recommend. A Housing Commission could address the game plan. This is a conversation that needs to continue.

Greta would like the Neighborhood Leadership Alliance (NLA) to meet concerning the deteriorated housing survey and recommendations of the NLA subcommittee to City Council. It will be important to keep regular contact with the issue. A meeting of the NLA is to be scheduled after today's meeting. Barbara Perry recommended inviting David Treme and Mark Lewis. The Mayor is presently very involved with the gang summit; these two subjects could go hand in hand.

On a separate issue, Lynn Raker reported that the Park Avenue entrance signs will be installed on City property at Long and Liberty Streets and at Boundary and Council Streets. Care will be taken to landscape the area in a manner that the City can maintain. This will be completed after Lynn secures a permit for the installation.

Greta Connor reported that 11<sup>th</sup> Street is a blighted area with signs of prostitution. KDM Construction is dumping materials on property in that area that is making the appearance even worse.

### **Art in Public Places**

The Elizabeth Maxwell Steel, John Steele, and Hinton Rowan Helper markers for the History and Art Trail have been installed. Barbara Perry reported that there are six more to install—hopefully during May, because it is Historic Preservation Month.

A subcommittee of the Public Art Committee will meet Thursday at 3 p.m., along with Downtown Salisbury, Inc. and Wachovia Bank, at the Historic Mural parking lot to discuss the installation of a pocket park on the site. The Wachovia Foundation will participate financially in the installation of the Cotton Mills marker and the pocket park being proposed.

The CAC received a grant from the Woodson Foundation in the amount of \$8,000 for the installation of the markers for the History and Art Trail.

### **Landscaping**

The Landscape Committee met April 25. Members of the committee submitted their nominations for the Landscape of the Month award. Clyde Overcash attended the meeting. The May residential Landscape of the Month award goes to Mary Ann Martinelli of 531 W. Henderson Street and the winner of the commercial Landscape of the Month award is Community Bank at 322 East Innes Street. Barbara Lawther will contact the residential winner; Community Bank has already been notified.

Suzette Davis suggested that the CAC look at all parts of the city—including the newly annexed areas.

Nominations for the June and July awards need to be sent to Suzette Davis; her email address is [bdavis85@carolina.rr.com](mailto:bdavis85@carolina.rr.com).

**Municipal Service District (MSD) and Innes Street Improvement Grants (ISG)**

Clay Lindsay will reapply for the next grant cycle so funds can be released to other worthy projects. This will return \$7,500 to the grant cycle. Lynn Raker received a request from Bob Isenhour for repair and painting. The CAC asked if there was any request from Ruby's, since the building is in need of repair.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Cindee Bridges offered her resignation due to personal obligations. The CAC recommended three names to City Council to fill the vacancy on the CAC: Meredith Reamer Sullivan, Suzanne Wallace Casey, and Cheryl Goins. These individuals will be contacted by Barbara Perry to inquire if they are willing to serve.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- Tom Wolpert asked how long the Queen's Gifts PODS would be allowed to sit in the parking lot behind City Hall. The store has undergone extensive renovations and restocking.
- Jody Elf will return to Salisbury for an exhibit at the Water Works Visual Arts Center November 16, 2007 through February 2, 2008.
- May is Historic Preservation Month; there will be an ice cream social sponsored by the Historic Preservation Commission May 19 from 3-5 p.m. at the Bell Tower Park. There will be a coloring contest for children.
- Cheerwine will have a celebration at the Trolley Barn May 19.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned. The next regular CAC meeting will be June 6, 2007.

DM